

---

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2016

For additional information contact:

Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7182 or [Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov)

## **Kent County Increases Funding to Repair/Modify Homes**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – The Kent County Board of Commissioners voted this morning to provide additional funds and increase the eligible amount of funding per unit for repairs on homes owned by low- to moderate-income families. The vote this morning will more than double the amount previously allowed.

Kent County currently contracts with Home Repair Services (HRS) to provide home repairs of up to \$3,500 for eligible clients outside of the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming (which have their own funding components). The amended contract will allow HRS to expend up to \$10,000 per unit for eligible clients from March 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016. The agreement also increases the contract with HRS by \$150,000. The funds for repairs come from Kent County Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

The Kent County CDBG funds two programs:

Minor Home Repair Program: emergency home repairs to single family, owner-occupied homes for very low income homeowners making 80 percent of area median income (i.e. roofs, septic systems, furnaces, etc.);

Access Modification Program: modify homes of eligible individuals with mobility impairments in order to improve access and use of the home. These funds are eligible for homeowners and renters.

"The economics of today's housing costs and wages can make it tough for families in need of a home repair or modification," said Kent County Board Chair James Saalfeld. "This funding will assist some families with necessary repairs."

As part of an ongoing program review, the Community Development Department will be assessing this program change to determine if it will be made permanent in future years. "Home Repair Services is thrilled to partner with Kent County to maximize the use of these extra funds in the community to help strengthen lower income homeowners," said Joel Ruiter, HRS Executive Director. "Strong homeowners build strong communities by keeping people in their homes which in turn helps to retain housing values."

To learn more about Home Repair Service programs, call 616.241.2601 during business hours or go to [www.homerepairservices.org](http://www.homerepairservices.org).

###